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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7311  
INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 2645  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 8741  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 3239  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 3112  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7038

UNCLAS TASHKENT 000523

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [UZ](#)  
SUBJECT: GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT NUCLEAR TERRORISM:  
POSITIVE RESPONSE LIKELY FROM UZBEKISTAN

REF: A. STATE 21535  
[1](#)B. TASHKENT 394 (NOTAL)

Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

[1](#)1. (SBU) On April 2 the Ambassador, jointly with his Russian counterpart, invited the GOU to endorse the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism Statement of Principles and to participate in future meetings (ref A). Deputy Foreign Minister Anvar Salikhbaev said that Uzbekistan understands the threat of nuclear terrorism in light of its proximity to Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. The Government of Uzbekistan, he continued, also has shown its commitment to nonproliferation, most recently by joining the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and by participating in an effort with the United States, Russia, and Kazakhstan to remove highly enriched uranium in spent fuel from the Institute of Nuclear Physics near Tashkent. Salikhbaev said that he thought it likely that a positive response to the invitation would be forthcoming prior to the initiative's June meeting in Kazakhstan.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Comment: Salikhbaev's reaction was as positive as could reasonably be expected. The ultimate decision will be made by President Karimov; however, Salikhbaev's comments suggest a positive response.  
PURNELL